

Nothing in linguistics makes sense except in the light of change

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Nothing in biology makes sense except in the light of evolution (Theodosius Dobzhansky 1973)

1. Primary Linguistic Data (Universal Grammar → Grammar)

Binding theory and learning

2. a. They_i washed themselves_i.
- b. Kim_i's father loves her_i.
- c. Kim_i heard DP[Bill's speeches about her_i].
- d. Kim left.
- e. *Kim_i said that Kim_i left

Punctuated Equilibrium in study of diachronic syntax

Development of formal approaches to syntax

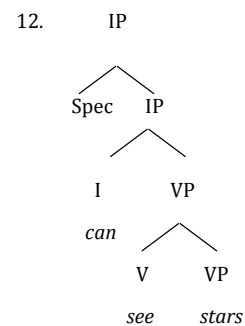
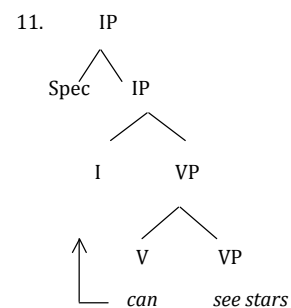
E-language/I-language distinction (including coexisting/competing grammars, Kroch 1989, 1994)

Cue-based discovery model of acquisition (Dresher 1999, Fodor 1998, Lightfoot 1999)

First Novelty: New Inflectional items

3. a. She has seen stars
- b. *She has could see stars
4. a. Seeing stars, ...
- b. *Canning see stars, ...
5. a. She wanted to see stars

- b. *She wanted to can see stars
6. a. She will try to see stars
- b. *She will can see stars
7. a. She understands music
- b. *She can music
8. I fear that the emperor will depart thence, before my letters **shall may** come unto your grace's hands (1532, Cranmer, *Letters*)
9. That appered at the fyrste **to mow** stande the realm in grete stede (1533, More, *Works* 885 C1), 'appeared at first to be able to stand the realm in good stead.'
10. If wee **had mought** convenient come togyther, ye woulde rather haue chosin to haue harde my minde of mine owne mouthe (1528, More, *Works* 107 H6), 'if we had been able to come together conveniently,'

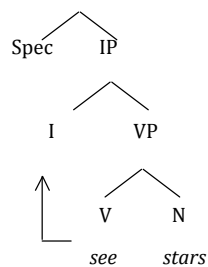


13. present tense: *fremme, fremst, fremþ, fremmaþ. sēo, siehst, siehþ, sēop. rīde, rītst, rītt, rīdaþ*
- past tense: *fremed, fremedest, fremede, fremedon. rād, ride, rād and ridon*
14. They might/must/could/should/would leave tomorrow.

Former preterite-present verbs became non-verb-like (no 3rd sg -s ending, -d forms with non-past, “subjunctive” meanings)

Second Novelty: Loss of *v*

15. a. *Sees Kim stars?
b. Does Kim see stars?
16. a. *Kim sees not stars
b. Kim does not see stars
17. a. *Kim sees always stars
b. Kim always sees stars
18. IP



19. a. Where **didst thou** see her? - O unhappy girl! - With the Moor, **say'st thou**?
b. I **like not** that. // What **dost thou** say?
c. Alas, what **does this gentleman** conceive? - How **do you**, madam?

Third Novelty: Atomic forms of *be*

20. a. Kim slept well, and Jim will [sc. sleep well] too.
b. Kim seems well behaved today, and she often has [sc. seemed well behaved] in the past, too.
c. Although Kim went to the store, Jim didn't [sc. go to the store].
d. *slept*: [past+v_ssleep]
21. a. Kim will be here, and Jim will [sc. be here] too.
b. Kim has been here, and Jim has [sc. been here] too

- c. *Kim was here and Jim will [sc. be here] too.
- d. *If Kim is well behaved today, then Jim probably will [sc. be well behaved] too.
- e. *Kim was here yesterday and Jim has [sc. been here] today.

22. a. I wish our opinions were the same. But in time they will [sc. be the same]. 1816, Jane Austen, *Emma*, ed. R. W. Chapman (London: Oxford University Press, 1933), 471).

b. And Lady Middleton, is she angry?

I cannot suppose it possible that she should [sc. be angry]. 1811, Jane Austen, *Sense and sensibility*, ed. R. W. Chapman (London: Oxford University Press, 1923), 272.

c. I think, added he, all the Charges attending it, and the Trouble you had, were defray'd by my Attorney: I ordered that they should [sc. be defrayed]. 1741, Samuel Richardson, *Pamela* (London, 3rd edn.), vol.2, 129.

d. That bettre loved is noon, ne never schal. C1370, Chaucer, *A complaint to his lady*, 80, 'So that no one is better loved, or ever shall [sc. be loved].'

e. *were*: [subjunctive+v_{be}]

23. a. Kim was to go to Paris.
b. *Kim will be to go to Paris.
24. a. Kim has been to Paris.
b. *Kim was to Paris.
25. a. I regretted Kim reading that chapter.
b. I regretted that Kim was reading that chapter.
c. *I regretted Kim being reading that chapter.
26. a. You will be to visit me in prison with a basket of provisions ... 1814, Jane Austen, *Mansfield Park*, ed. J. Lucas (London: Oxford University Press, 1970) 122.
b. I was this morning to buy silk. 1762, Oliver Goldsmith, *Cit W*: 158 (meaning 'I went to ...,' not 'I had to ...').
c. One day being discoursing with her upon the extremities they suffered ... 1791, Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*, vol. 2, 218.
27. a. You are being naughty. You are being a bore
b. Everything is being done. Susan is being arrested.

Cue-based, discovery model

Primary Linguistic Data_p (Universal Grammar → I-language₀₃₇)

Consequences

Gradual change in E-language and punctuated equilibrium in I-languages

No notions yet of natural changes or conservative parameter settings (cf reconstruction of phonology)

Causes of new I-language are local and contingent (domino effects)

Discontinuities create difficulties for reconstruction of prehistorical proto-languages

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